



# THE LEADER

Vol. 37, No. 42

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ [www.grandforks.af.mil](http://www.grandforks.af.mil)

Oct. 25, 2002



## Maintenance superstars



**319th  
MXS  
does  
its  
part to  
keep the  
wing's  
planes flying high**

See Pages 8, 12 and 13 for more



319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Solano Trophy Winner ♦ Best Base in 15th Air Force

### Inside:

#### Weekend weather

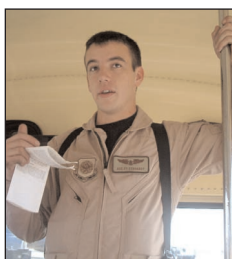
Today	37/21	partly cloudy
Saturday	35/20	partly cloudy
Sunday	39/23	partly cloudy
Monday	42/24	mostly cloudy



Weather information courtesy  
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

**A world  
away -  
Base Y**

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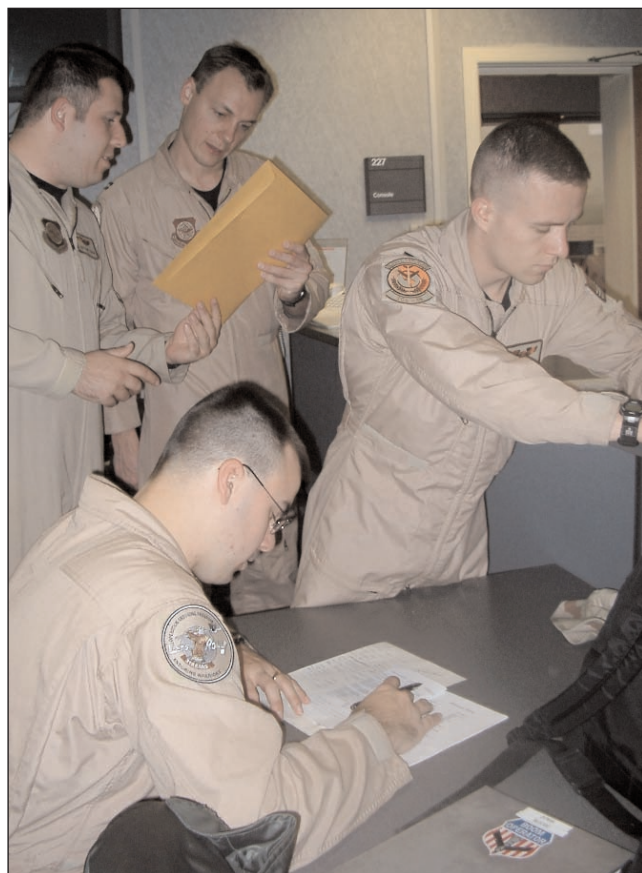


# A world away; Base Y considered ‘ops normal’

By Capt. Patricia Lang  
Public affairs

It’s about two hours before an October midnight, half a world away from here. A runway beckons bright red and white in the deep dark desert.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base KC-135R Stratotanker, piloted by Capt. Keith Litzler, 906th Air Refueling Squadron, and 1st Lt. Jarrod Ebner, 905th



Photos by Capt. Patricia Lang

A KC-135 aircrew mission plans prior to leaving RAF Mildenhall, England, enroute to Base Y.

ARS, lines up precisely with the red lights. As we draw closer, the lights differentiate themselves – the blurry unbroken lines form a clear, connect-the-dots pattern.

The nose tilts downward gently, slightly. Landing gear drops. And touch down! Beautiful. And exacting. You can tell they’ve done this before. That touch down marks the start of yet another aircrew rotation to Base Y, a rotation Air Force leadership now calls “ops normal.”

The pilots taxi. Small, blue ground lights shine to their right and left, guiding us to where the aircraft will rest. The side hatch opens. Balmy 80-plus degree Fahrenheit air enters. Sand is all around.

The crew comments, “smells like desert.” And they would know. Minute particles of sand are almost tastefully present with each breath we take.

A sliver of a moon lights the area, and you can see sister tankers lined up quietly in the night, awaiting their next missions. Some are lit up, ladders down. Maintainers hard at work speckle the flightline – their mission-capable rate here for the KC-135 approaches 88 percent.

Together, we unload a thankfully finite stream of baggage, and Lt. Col. Mark “Scru” Thomas, the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron commander, and chief boom operator Master Sgt. Gary Elliott, offer greetings and give directions.

The crew moves not slowly and not quickly — but quite deliberately — to transport dark bags into dust-encrusted white trucks. You can tell they’ve done this before.

We take a crew bus. As we pop down windows to get air to circulate, sand flies in. We arrive at a kit-like structure with hardened wall panels, admirably serving as the KC-135 operations headquarters.

Thomas, who less than an hour before landed from an 8.7-hour combat sortie, briefs crew basics and the “combat showers” policy. There will be clean sheets and blankets, but beds still require making. Crews smile as Thomas says there’ll be “no mints on your pillow.” The tents have 24-hour quiet hours in effect, as we’re flying around the clock.

It’s late – more briefings start eight hours from now – 7



Despite the comforts of home, crew members make light of their accommodations.

a.m. Sunday. The crew will spend their first full day getting briefed and planning combat missions. Monday, almost all will fly combat air refueling missions over Afghanistan. One crew will sit alert for any contingency taskings.

The ride to the tents is dark. Dust is inside and out, inescapable. A walk around the encampment – a tent city called “Camp Andy” – reveals much familiar to frequent deployers including a dining tent, chapel tent, PERSCO tent, weight rooms and aerobics rooms, and even a deployed base exchange. The majority have seen this before. Rotations to desert locations have become a way of life for our Air Force.

The camp is named for Master Sgt. Evander “Andy” Andrews from Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho,

See BASE Y, Page 10



The 319th Maintenance Squadron keeps busy maintaining the more than 48 KC-135R Stratotankers assigned to the 319th Air Refueling Wing. This issue is dedicated to their effort.



Illustration by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

**93%**

Air Refueling Effectiveness Rate from Oct. 7 through Oct. 12.

**7**

DWI-free days. The base gets a down day for 100 DWI-free days.

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Capt. Patricia Lang \_\_\_\_\_ Chief, public affairs  
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## Deadlines

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## Contact information

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## Public Affairs

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Call the Grand Forks Herald at 701.780.1275 before noon Tuesday.



# AMC vice commander answers AEF questions

By Cynthia Bauer

Air Mobility Command public affairs

**SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AMCNS)** – Every other month, Air Force major command vice commanders, a group of Air Staff lieutenant generals, and Air and Space Expeditionary Force Center representatives, meet with Air Force Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Robert H. “Doc” Foglesong to review and refine the AEF structure.

Lt. Gen. John R. Baker, Air Mobility Command’s vice commander, a member of this AEF Forum, had this to say about the forum’s progress:

**General Baker, what was the main issue of discussion at the September meeting of the AEF Forum?**

*“We continue to discuss the stressed career fields with the experts from the Air Staff and the Air Force Personnel Center. We want to stay on track, and keep closer account of our deployed forces so we don’t have a ‘lost patrol.’ In addition, we’ve prioritized what occupations our airmen go into after basic military training to add more personnel to the stressed career fields.*

*“The Air Force is looking at adding 1,000 this year and another 2,400 next year to those career fields that are hurting the most. Although we are putting more people into those stressed career fields, it will take two years or more to see the results. You can’t just take one person and instantly recreate all the experience and skill necessary immediately for that airman to function successfully in a stressed career field. It will take some time.”*

**What else has the Air Force done to reduce the stress on those career fields that have fewer people than necessary to meet deployment requirements?**

*“When we started on the Air Expeditionary Wing construct several years ago, no one had a crystal ball that could have foretold the Global War on Terrorism. We have found the basic structure does work, but because of the demands on our forces after the Sept. 11 attacks, the system did get stressed.*

*“One solution has been to roll the two Air Expeditionary Wings into the 10 AEFs while continuing to work toward getting expeditionary combat support leveled throughout the Air Force. This will help us even out the distribution of personnel in the AEFs and provide us with a more rational approach to the deployment cycle. But this only solves part of the problem.*

*“Another area of improvement is that overseas joint exercises of more than 30 days will no longer be treated differently than deployments. They shouldn’t be.*

*“A person vulnerable to deploy may be called on to support*

*the Global War on Terrorism or a major joint exercise. As I mentioned earlier, we need to track our forces, and we need to track these exercises because we don’t want to be caught short in supporting contingencies.*

*“The best way to do this is to use the AEF system. It will take a while for this to get entrenched in our operations, but the only way to build confidence in the AEF is to work within the system.”*

**What is the future of Phoenix Readiness at the Air Mobility Warfare Center at Fort Dix, N.J., now that it’s a flag-level expeditionary combat support exercise?**

*“Now that Phoenix Readiness will be constituted as a flag-level exercise and the concept is approved, we’ll put the flesh on the bones to increase staff and develop courseware. We will expand and construct new facilities to increase the number of classes and add more Air Force specialty codes to the training program. We are working closely with Air Combat Command and the Air Staff to put the expansion in place sooner rather than later. We’re looking at less than a year.*

*“Phoenix Readiness is an important part of the Global Mobility Task Force concept. For GMTF, we need the right kind of people to build up bases and the follow-on forces to sustain operations. The GMTF is part of the CSAF’s plan to focus our efforts on capabilities, not just platforms. Developing clearly understood concepts of operations for each task force is a major part of our efforts at transforming our culture into an expeditionary mindset.*

*“Where the Global Strike Task Force ‘kicks down the door,’ the GMTF opens the base. AMC tanker airlift control elements, the TALCEs, have been in the base-opening business for several decades but may need to be expanded to meet a new mission. Our focus in the past has been on opening bases for primarily AMC operations.*

*“Future GMTF focus needs to include the beddown of any weapon system — including joint or coalition forces. Also, we will need to review how we work with the Army and Marines when we have to open the base under adverse conditions. This will involve integrating with U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Pacific Air Forces’ recently created contingency response groups that have similar missions but with a robust security and civil engineer capability. They all have the same objective, to go into any location and rapidly build up a bare base or runway so we can go in to support the theater commanders for either military or humanitarian operations.*

*As we discovered during the early stages of the GWOT, there are not enough TALCEs to support the simultaneous*

*build up of more than a few bases, much less sustain combat operations for an extended period of time. Other commands and organizations will be brought together and trained to help, especially in the sustainment phase, so that the TALCEs can regroup and be retasked to open other bases. The GMTF goes across the Air Force as a part of the Air and Space Expeditionary Force concept, and Phoenix Readiness will play an important role in building the Air Force GMTF.*

**What are the significant issues facing the Guard and Reserve?**

*“The contributions of the Guard and Reserve have been simply amazing, especially for AMC. We could not have achieved the success we have achieved without their support for our mission. There have been challenges with the recent demobilization and a reduction in available man-days. Activating large numbers of the Air Reserve Component for the past year has been difficult on their employers and families.*

*“Needless to say, we appreciate their support. The Air Force is distributing the workload for our Guard and Reserve partners across the AEFs for more consistency. We are also looking to more rationally ‘smooth-flow’ Guard and Reserve expeditionary combat support capabilities into the AEFs in the same manner we are working the active duty.”*

**Where does the focus at wing level need to be?**

*“Our airmen must be prepared for deployment. With the predictability we are growing with the AEFs, there is no reason they shouldn’t be. Airmen must depart their home station with the right orders, equipment, clothes, records and training and qualifications. There have been more than a few instances, too many in my view, where airmen are not bringing everything they should. There have been issues not only at the departure point, but also at the reception location.*

*“There needs to be increased emphasis at our wings on routine training for our folks running our mobility processing activities. There is also an effort to ensure those at the reception locations have the right training and are focused on the ‘must haves’ for deployments.”*

**What has been the assessment of the performance of AMC airmen in supporting the AEF?**

*“The Chief of Staff and Secretary of the Air Force have said recently and more than once how proud they are of the effort and dedication of our folks. Our folks are working hard and have achieved a remarkable record. It’s important to hear and remember this as we move forward after the one-year anniversary of the Global War on Terrorism.*

*“We all understand that refining the AEFs has taken time and has caused some frustration. But the Air Force leadership is working hard to solve the challenges we have faced.”*





# Airman's Attic drive yields few items; more items needed

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

Four airmen volunteered their time to gather items for the Airman's Attic drive Oct. 12, securing a number of items for the attic.

The airmen – who included Airmen 1st Class Vanny Vang, Juan Garcia and Justin Madsen, 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron and Aaron Twigg, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – picked up two sofas, one bed, two coffee tables, and several end tables and carpets.

Using an Air Force cargo truck coordinated by Master Sgt. Donald Sandbothe, 319th LRS, the airmen went house-to-house on base and picked up the items.

Peggy Walker, family support center referral and information specialist, coordinated the drive. She said more items are needed.

"There is always airmen in need of different types of furniture items and this



Airmen volunteers move furniture at a residence on base during the Airman's Attic drive Oct. 12.

drive only allowed us to get a few items, but we need more," Walker said.

Master Sgt. Barb Zavala, FSC superintendent, said the Airman's Attic is open

Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. However, if someone wants to make a furniture donation during duty hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays), all they have to do is contact an FSC staff member at 747-3241 and the Airman's Attic area will be opened up.

"We want clean, usable furniture for donations," Zavala said. "No electrical items or clothing is taken as donations. People can donate those items to the thrift shop."

Zavala said items in continuous demand at beds in all sizes and dinette sets in good condition.

"This is a good way to help the younger troops who need new furniture," Zavala said.

Other items taken are dishes, dressers, coffee tables, end tables, recliners, love seats, sofas, bed frames, and any other furniture not considered an electrical item.

For more details call the family support center at 747-3241.

## Dressed for success



Courtesy photos

The seventh annual Black and White Scholarship Ball, held Saturday, was a success. The African-American Cultural Association sponsored ball reached its goal toward awarding two deserving high school seniors a \$1,000 and a \$500 scholarship at the Black History Month banquet in February 2003. At the ball, 37 door prizes donated by various businesses on base and from the surrounding communities, were given away.





## Briefs

### OSC scholarship auction

The Officers' Spouses' Club hosts their annual scholarship auction Nov. 2 at the club, with the silent auction beginning at 6 p.m.

Live auction starts at 7 p.m. with Bob Concannon as the auctioneer. All are welcome to come for bidding and pay-as-you-go bar.

A country chicken buffet is available with reservations. Please contact Penny Shaw at 594-6362 for reservations by Oct. 30. Cost for the meal is \$7.50 for club members and \$10.50 for non members.

### ALS graduates

Congratulations to the following senior airmen on their recent graduation from Airman Leadership School.

➔ 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – Daniel Bonds, Anita Gray, Carmen Latvis, Carmen Postrero, Joshua Stone (Leadership award winner) and Justin Tabert

➔ 911th Air Refueling Squadron – Andrew Diaz (John Levitow Award winner)

➔ 319th Security Forces Squadron – Brenda Cook, Corby Czajka and Ryan Hawbaker

➔ 319th Communications Squadron – Jason Gamble, Joseph Neis and Stephanie Nokes

➔ 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron – Melissa Johnson and Michael Pugh

➔ 319th Comptroller Squadron – Keelan Rasmusson

➔ 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron – Jefferey Smith

➔ 119th Fighter Wing (Fargo Air National Guard) – Christopher Plath

➔ 319th Operations Support Squadron – David Counts (distinguished graduate for academic achievement)

### CGO for ONW

Capt. Martin Daack, 906 Air Refueling Squadron, won the company grade officer of the month for September for Operation Northern Watch. Capt. Daack was tops out of 130 other CGOs in ONW.

### Ladies night out

Ladies night out is Monday, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the community activity center. It will be followed by a free movie at the base theater at 7 p.m. Door Prizes will be given away through out the evening and snacks will be provided.

Ladies Night Out is open to all women (18 and older) on base or who have base privileges. This is an Adult evening out. Please do not bring children.

### Accounting, finance website

The 319th Comptroller Squadron has launched a new web site that gives access to general finance questions and information on the organization.

The website offers many useful links to electronic forms such as travel vouchers, advance pay, allotments, direct deposit, etc., frequently asked questions, mileage for PCS/TDY, per diem rates, and finance AFIs/regulations. Visit the website at [//w3/Units/319HQ/Comptroller/319CPTS](https://w3/Units/319HQ/Comptroller/319CPTS).

Employee/Member Self Service (EMSS) web site changed its name change to myPay Tuesday. Access to myPay will be available by using the <https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm> link.

### Youth mentoring program

From Operation Enduring Freedom to the myriad of other deployments team Grand Forks supports, the wing spends more time away from home than ever, to ensure our freedom and way of life.

In order to support each other during

these times of increased operational tempo, the company grade officer association has partnered with the family support center to support families of deployed people.

Our goal is to provide youths, kindergarten through 12th grade, with a positive adult role model, to help ease the impact of having a deployed parent.

Mentors will be CGOA members who have been selected and trained by the family support center. To be eligible, family members must be deployed 30 days or more.

Mentoring visits range from two to six hours per week. The parent/guardian and mentor will agree upon times, dates, and locations.

The family will pay all of the youth's expenses during mentoring activities. Mentoring will normally take place for a period of three to six months but may be adjusted to meet the needs of the family.

Several families have already taken advantage of this program over the last year.

For more details and for sign-up opportunities, call the family support center via work/life consultants or call 2nd Lt. Cameron Jackson at 747-3248.

# Everyone plays role in snow removal

**By Master Sgt. Vincent Hoffman**  
319th Civil Engineer Squadron

With winter quickly approaching, the snow removal folks are asking everyone's help to make this season go smoothly. North Dakota winters are challenging, and we ask people be extra patient. Your assistance in the following areas is needed:

- Refrain from parking on streets during snow removal operations. Continue parking in driveways until the ground is frozen hard enough to allow parking on lawns.

- Give way to snow removal equipment. Stay back at least 50 feet.

- Don't shovel or blow snow back onto street.

- Remove yard decorations within 15 feet of the curb.

- Refrain from shoveling snow into the driveway or sidewalk of vacant units.

- Be patient and drive carefully.

Parking on the street during snow removal operations greatly hampers snow removal crew effectiveness. The 319th Support Group commander will decide when to implement the winter parking plan to allow parking of vehicles on housing lawns. This plan allows military family housing residents to clear a parking space on their lawn in front of their quarters.

Typically, the frost depth must reach four inches with no chance of a thaw before the parking plan will be implemented. The ground must be completely frozen to prevent lawn damage. Implementation of this plan

will be announced via Channel 3, and the base bulletin. Once in effect, vehicles parked along the street will be ticketed.

Another concern to housing residents is piles of snow (windrows) left in driveway entrances. Don't blow or shovel these windrows back onto the street because it freezes and causes a driving hazard. The next snow removal activity will also carry the snow and ice into your neighbor's driveway. Snow removal crews will remove windrows along the curbs and streets when they pose a hazard.

Priority III parking lots, such as the commissary and base exchange, will be cleared after Priority I and II parking lots and main base streets are complete. Priority III parking lots will be cleared in order based on the service the function provides and the number of customers. For example, the hospital, child development center, commissary, and BX will be cleared first. The majority of parking lots should be cleared within 96 hours after a storm. It normally takes three to four days to clear all lots after a moderate (4"-6") snowstorm.

Please keep in mind that snow removal operations make streets and parking lots passable, but not snow and ice-free, so you will have to drive with extra care. Your patience and cooperation will aid snow removal crews in providing "Team Grand Forks" the best possible service.

Questions on snow removal activities can be addressed to the snow removal contractor, DSMI, at 747-3471.

**Priority III parking lots, such as the commissary and base exchange, will be cleared after Priority I and II parking lots and main base streets are complete. Priority III parking lots will be cleared in order based on the service the function provides and the number of customers. For example, the hospital, child development center, commissary, and BX will be cleared first.**



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol*

# 319th MXS; world-class people

By Maj. Dave Koch

319th Maintenance Squadron commander

The 319th Maintenance Squadron has more than 260 of the best airmen I have ever had the pleasure of serving alongside. Our world-class maintainers provide phenomenal aircraft maintenance support to keep 54 aging KC-135 tanker aircraft ready to fly.

We operate out of numerous facilities stretched out along the flightline, and work most systems on the aircraft. From performing detailed isochronal inspections to maintaining more than 530 pieces of ground equipment, our mission never stops.

319th MXS airmen have been working twice as hard since Sept. 11. Our folks, along with the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron airmen, aided the wing in breaking all previous flying hour records for core tanker wings. In fact, we generated almost twice the number of flying hours of the previous record year, going from 15,000 hours to more than 28,000!

Our folks accomplished this mission at home, supporting local training sorties and Operation Noble Eagle, and abroad, supporting Operations Southern Watch, Northern Watch, and Enduring Freedom.

I am very proud of our NCOs because they have led the efforts over the past year with tremendous success, and they have done this with one of the youngest workforces in history. More than 35 percent of our squadron

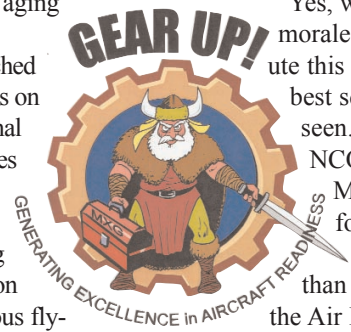
are new airmen working on upgrade to the five-skill level. Some shops are manned with more than 50 percent new talent. Their daily challenge to “get the mission accomplished” while training the new folks has brought out the best in all of them. They are doing a superb job of training the future of our Air Force!

Yes, we’ve worked hard this past year, but the morale has remained remarkably high. I attribute this to two main reasons. First, we have the best squadron “Top 4” organization I have ever seen. Our technical sergeants and senior NCOs are active and eager to make 319th MXS a great place to work and they look for ways to make a difference.

For example, our Top 4 donated more than \$500 towards tickets for airmen to attend the Air Force Ball, encouraging our young troops to go and have a great time.

The second reason is our airmen understand the importance of this wing’s mission in supporting America’s War on Terrorism. Modern wars require air superiority with tankers being the key aspect to mission success.

Although the name and structure of our squadron didn’t change in the recent reorganization, we look forward to working with the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron in the new 319th Maintenance Group, and we proudly live up to the group’s new mission statement – “Generating Excellence in Aircraft Readiness.”



## Core values don’t include drinking underage

by Maj. Dean Cusanek

81st Security Forces Squadron

**KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE, Miss. (AFPN) --**

It used to be that having a couple of drinks after work was the thing to do. A whole group would head from the dorms to the Airman's Club and drink the night away.

In the early 1980s, things started to change. The drinking age was changed to 19, then 20 and then 21. People were upset.

I hear the same complaints today that I heard then: “If I am old enough to fight and die for my country, I should be old enough to have a drink whenever I want one.”

That sounds all “hoooah,” but when you give it a sanity check, it isn’t. To die for your country is one thing, but to die because you made a poor choice to break the law and drink underage is quite another.

Underage drinking is against the law.

So, what’s so special about 21? It isn’t just an age lawmakers pulled out of a hat. According to information posted on the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Web site, in the late 1960s and early 1970s, several states lowered their drinking age from 21 to 18. Research indicated a significant increase in highway deaths of the teens affected by these laws.

Therefore, in the early ‘80s, a movement began to

**See UNDERAGE, next page**

## **UNDERAGE, from previous page**

raise the drinking age back to 21. States monitored the difference in highway fatalities. Research found that teen-age deaths in fatal car crashes dropped up to 28 percent. In 1982, when many states had a minimum drinking age of 18, 55 percent of all fatal crashes involving young drivers also involved alcohol. Since then, the alcohol-related traffic fatality rate has been cut in half and more than 17,000 lives have been saved.

Alcohol has also been proven to have adverse affects on the brains of young people. Young brains don't finish developing until about the age of 20, and the last regions of the brain to mature involve the ability to plan and make complex judgments. Young brains are vulnerable to the dangerous effects of alcohol, especially their learning and memory functions.

Young people who drink impair the brain functions they rely on so heavily for learning and making split-second decisions that could affect their lives and the lives of those around them.

As military members, we're held to the highest standards. We're expected to be mature, productive members of society, to make sound decisions and live by our core values -- regardless of our age. The core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do are much more than minimum standards. They remind us what it takes to get the mission done. They inspire us to do our very best at all times. They are the common bond among all comrades in arms.

We rely on each other to build and sustain the world's most respected air and space force. If we use the core values as our compass, together we'll get the mission done.

*(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command)*



## **BASE Y, from Page 2**

who lost his life in a construction accident three days after Operation Enduring Freedom started. He was the first United States casualty.

A huge rock bearing his name now looms at the hub of the tent city recreation area. A plaque on the rock shares part of a book in the Bible – 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13: “Love is patient. Love is kind. It does not envy. It does not boast. It is not proud. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of this is love.”

Below that, it reads “ Once a dirt boy, always a dirt boy,” from the 366th Civil Engineers (also of Mountain Home AFB).

That constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice given by Andrews lives on in the spirit of those deployed to “Camp Andy.”

The War on Terrorism is being fought, day-in and day-out as 319th Air Refueling Wing airmen deploy, fly, serve and put their lives on the line. They believe in freedom. They’ve committed themselves to defending freedom. And they realize they are fighting for something greater than themselves.



*Photo by Capt. Patricia Lang*

**Capt. Matthew Enfield, pilots a KC-135 aircraft to Base Y.**



# GEARing up: 319th Maintenance Squadron follows group's lead to be best

By Staff Sgt. Randy Roughton  
Public affairs

With the lives of multi-million dollar aircraft hinging on their expertise, 319th Maintenance Squadron members need confidence in their abilities to keep the planes safe and flying.

They have the confidence because they continually meet high standards, said Maj. Dave Koch, 319th MXS commander. The 319th Maintenance Group has a new motto that showcases their positive outlook on the job: "GEAR – Generating Excellence in Aircraft Readiness."

"This motto serves the attitude of our squadron well," Koch said. "If we can't fix it, then it's not broke. We can fix anything out there."

Maintenance is responsible for "on and off" equipment maintenance for the 54 KC-135 aircraft assigned to the base, Koch said.

KC-135 aircrews kept the four 319th MXS flights quite busy last year by flying more than 28,000 hours, more than double the wing's average. It was a 95 percent increase from 2000, which was itself a record flight-hour year.

Four flights – maintenance, accessories, fabrication and aerospace ground equipment – help

MXS keep its sparkling safety record while caring for airplanes 35 to 50 years old.

"We have had no flying mishaps in recent memory," said Tech. Sgt. Mark Arthur, the squadron's safety NCO. "We also received an excellent on our safety record in our last staff assistant visit."

One reason for the squadron's success is its recognition program, which Koch believes is the best in the wing. Quarterly award winners receive an attractive blue athletic pullover with the squadron's "skeeter" patch on the left and their first name and award on the right front of the jacket. Maintainer of the quarter recipients get a maroon pullover, as well as a pass from the commander.

"Every person in our squadron knows our goal is to be the best maintenance squadron in the Air Force," Koch said. "We're well on the way to meeting that goal because we believe if we take care

of our people, they'll take care of the mission. The first step in taking care of world class airmen is to have a first rate recognition program."

The maintenance flight, with its crew chiefs and jet engine technicians, conducts isochronal inspections every 240 days, Arthur said. The inspection, which can take between five to eight workdays, is quite detailed, involving basically taking the airplane apart, panel by panel.

About a decade ago, these inspections were required only every 400 to 600 hours, but the flight members seem to like the 240-day process better.

"We put them under a magnifying glass," said Tech. Sgt. Rodney Reamy, isochronal dock chief. "We're looking for things they don't look for on the flightline. We have to look deeper and harder because these planes are getting older."

There is also absolutely "no room for error" in the aero-repair

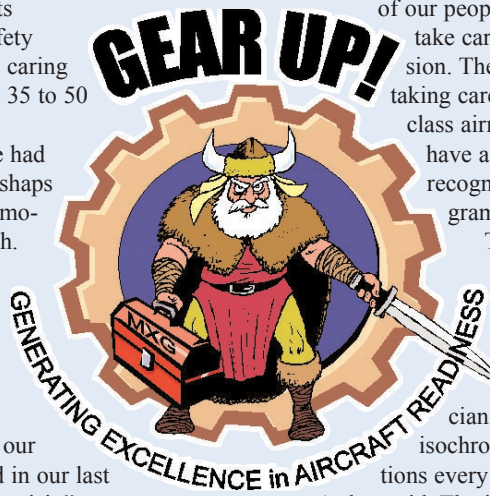
shop, which is another part of the maintenance flight. They are responsible for removing and replacing the aircraft's in-flight controls, Koch said.

The accessories flight, located in the three-bay hangar and Building 607, handles the hydraulics, and electro-environmental, and fuel cell upkeep of aircraft. "The baggage for tanker aircraft is fuel," Koch said. "They go up and repair fuel cells, a dangerous job. The cold weather also drives the workload because it causes havoc on the seals."

Metals technology, structures and non-destructive inspections comprise the fabrication flight, and the AGE shop takes care of heaters, generators, light-alls and other vital power aids on base.

When they receive an airplane for inspection and servicing, MXS first gives it a complete wash. Then, they remove all of the panels and look for defects and wear and tear not seen by the naked eye. The inspection takes about two days, and they then make repairs, based on everything they found.

"We want to be sure that when we turn the airplane back over to the pilot," Koch said, "it's good to go. We're proud of the maintenance we do and the products we turn over to the flightline."



## 'Tin Benders' can do attitude saves wing more than \$50,000

By 2nd Lt. Matthew G. Smiley  
319th Maintenance Squadron

How would you like to save a few dollars on your next shopping adventure? Maybe the money you save can be used for a family vacation, or towards a child's education.

The Air Force is no different when it comes to saving money. Recently, the "Tin Benders" from the 319th Maintenance structural maintenance shop displayed their uncanny abilities to save time and money for the Air Force and Grand Forks Air Force Base.

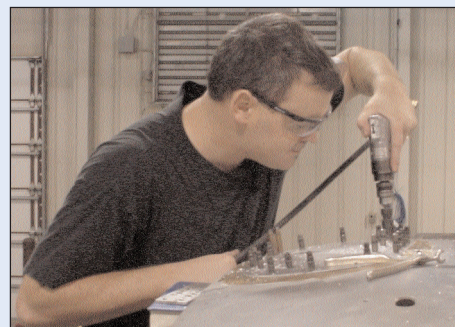
The problem started when the #2 engine cowl-ing (the streamlined sheet metal housing covering the jet engines) on a KC-135 inadvertently contacted the runway during landing. This contact damaged the cowl-ing, rendering the aircraft unsafe to fly.

Due to the uncompromising tolerances and extraordinary craftsmanship required for such a repair, field units aren't equipped with proper technical guidance to complete such a challenging task.

Working hand-in-hand with the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, the cowl-ing was removed from the affected engine and taken to the structural maintenance shop so Tech. Sgt. Jeff Wiedeman, the shop chief, could perform a more detailed inspection.

Wiedeman challenged Tech. Sgt. Stephen Schroeder, Staff Sgt. Edgar Dunn, and Airman 1st Class Christopher Breaux, along with the entire structural repair section to "think outside of the box," using their talents and experiences to come up with a safe and effective repair. It wasn't long before the "Tin Benders" had a solution.

Wiedeman presented the shops suggested repair to the on-site Boeing field engineer, Tom Jungels. Jungels thoroughly reviewed the suggest-



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Edgar Dunn, 319th Maintenance Squadron structural maintenance shop, works on a job in his shop.

ed repair procedures and forwarded the information to engineering at the Oklahoma City depot.

Boeing authorized the structural maintenance shops repair suggestions, and within minutes the men and women of the sheet metal shop sprung into action.

"The entire task took approximately 144 hours to accomplish - including time to get some parts to the base," Wiedeman said.

Not only did the "Tin Benders" save time, they saved money too. The price for a new engine cowl-ing is over \$68,000. The heroic efforts of the sheet metal troops enabled the repair to be accomplished for under \$3,000. This awesome display of talent and the 319th Maintenance Squadron's "if we can't fix it, nobody can" attitude is testament to the wing having the best Air Force troops.

## Back shop crew chiefs help keep wing ready

By Senior Airman Monte Volk  
Public affairs

Chalks are pulled. Engines wind up. The aircraft taxis and takes off. Wheels go up and the aircraft fades into the horizon ... another successful launch.

Nearly 80 percent of the crew chiefs assigned here see their hard work culminate with a successful launch, but for the other 20 percent, it's not always so obvious.

That 20 percent makes up some of the 319th Maintenance Squadron back shops such as isochronal, wheel and tire, aero repair, etc. Their mission is to provide on-and off-equipment inspection, diagnostic testing, trouble shooting, repair, assembly, calibration, receipt, storage and delivery of airframe systems and components, conventional munitions, aerospace ground equipment and test measurement diagnostic equipment in direct support of peacetime, contingency and emergency war order taskings for 48 KC-135 R/T tankers assigned to the 319th Air Refueling Wing.

Although they don't see the aircraft fade into the horizon upon job completion, the importance of what they do is equivalent to a weapons loader loading bombs. They provide mission ready aircraft to the fight. The aircraft is launched and provides direct support to current operations around the world.

"I feel I have big role in the Air Force and on the base," said Airman 1st Class Anthony Piechotte, isochronal dock. "We are essentially important to what happens to the aircraft. If we don't do something correctly, it can have a huge impact on the mission."

The crew chiefs in the back shops have the same core tasks as those on the flightline, but they also have specific knowledge of their respective shop.

"On the flightline, it's a lot faster paced and you get the aircraft ready to fly," said Senior Airman Billy White, isochronal dock and former flightline crew chief. "In here, we do more in-depth maintenance and learn more about the aircraft itself."

The time allotted to perform their jobs is equal to the tasks they need to complete. On the flightline they are gauged in hours; in isochronal dock they are gauged in days. "On the flightline you have two guys looking at the aircraft overall in a six or eight hour period," said Tech Sgt. Rod Reamy isochronal dock, an 11-year flightline veteran. "In here, we have 14 guys looking at the whole aircraft in an eight-day period. We're ripping off panels and looking up inside, because we have more time to do it. It's a more in-depth inspection."

Every crew chief has the ability to work on the flightline or in one of the back shops and they also have opportunities besides turning a wrench, such as supervision jobs, instructor duty and curriculum developers. What ever the job may be, where ever it may be, they are all crew chiefs, with the goal of launching aircraft and watching them fade into the horizon.



Photo by Senior Airman Monte Volk

Senior Airman Eric Rose, 319th Maintenance Squadron isochronal dock, works on putting a nose cone on the front of a KC-135 Monday.



Photo by Senior Airman Monte Volk

Airman 1st Class Anthony Piechotte, 319th Maintenance Squadron isochronal dock, works on a plane Monday.

## Maintaining the gas station

# MXS' 'fuel cell' literally knows KC-135 inside, out

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol  
Public affairs

In the 319th Maintenance Squadron, there are many people who know a lot about the KC-135R Stratotanker, but there are few who see the planes from the inside-out.

The unit's aircraft fuel systems repair element – otherwise known as the "fuel cell," specializes in repairing and maintaining the tanker fleet's fuel storage systems on 54 aircraft. These fuel tanks run from wing tip to wing tip, below the cargo floor from the nose landing gear to the boom operators pod, plus a 2,100-gallon tank in the tail (total capacity of 31,275 gallons). Maintenance often means climbing up into the jet's fuel tanks and making repairs.

"The KC-135 is a flying gas station and we are in essence the caretakers of the gas station," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Kuster, interim element chief. "We take care of testing, inspecting, modifying and repairing all fuel systems in all airframes, but here we specialize in the KC-135."

Fuel cell is one of only a few shops on base that operates 24 hours a day, five days a week. There are 26 people in the shop out of the 41 that makes up their parent flight – the 319th MXS accessories flight. Their primary maintenance facility is in the three-bay hangar and they have four other alternate locations in the flightline operations area.

"They make up more than 60 percent of this flight and it is my belief that this shop works more weekends than any other shop in the squadron," said Master Sgt. Reginald Lintz,

accessories flight superintendent. "This shop currently has nine people deployed to Base Y and Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, and that means the folks staying here have to do more. They do that and more."

The job of a fuel systems apprentice like Airman 1st Class John George isn't easy. They could be out on the flightline in the middle of January doing a minor system repair in below-zero temperatures or in the hangar performing in-tank maintenance in a very confined space.

"If you get stuck inside one of the tanks, you just have to stay calm," Roy said. "You can't be claustrophobic – that's for sure. There's very important work that we have to do so it can be a challenge, but I think we get it done pretty well."

George added, "Winter is probably our busiest time of year. When it's cold it doubles the amount of time needed to do jobs that are even the simplest tasks."

From being a "contortionist," as George put it, inside the tanks of the tanker to braving tempera-



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Airman 1st Class Carolina Roy, 319th Maintenance Squadron aircraft fuel systems repair element, inspects the inside of a KC-135R Stratotanker fuel tank earlier this week.

tures of both extremes, assistant interim shop chief Tech. Sgt. Gregory McIntire said it is all a part of the job.

"The coming winter will be my first here in Grand Forks," McIntire said. "However, it's also the first for many in the shop and I don't see any of us doing any less to get the mission done. I've worked on everything from B-52s to F-16s to now tankers and the bottom line is the planes need to be ready to fly. It's our job to make sure the fuel systems are good to go no matter what conditions we face."

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the fuel cell – like the rest of 319th Air Refueling Wing – has felt the crunch of more people being gone on deployments, Kuster said.

"Usually when we would deploy we would send our experienced five- and seven-level personnel," Kuster said. "Now that's all changed and we have three-level apprentices out on deployment working on planes by day and on the career development courses by night. They've all stood up to the challenge and it's been reflected by our reputation wherever our folks have been."

That reputation is one Kuster calls "the best kept secret in the Air Force."

"We take a bit of pride in what we do," Kuster said. "Our folks – both at home and on deployment – are known for doing good work and doing it right the first time. We want to be the best at what we do and I think our work worldwide has reflected that."

In a wing where working with fuel is king, there's little doubt of the importance Fuel Cell holds with the wing mission.

"In this shop as a whole, we do what we can and then a little bit more," George said. "Nearly everyone has something good to say about our shop and that's just the way we like it."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol

Tech. Sgt. Greg McIntire, Staff Sgt. Bryan Young, and Airman 1st Class John George, all of the 319th MXS aircraft fuel systems repair element, work on a fuel bladder in the three-bay hangar.



Photo by Senior Airman Monte Volk

## MXS warriors in action

(Left) A 319th Maintenance Squadron jet engine mechanic works on an engine change earlier this week. (Right) Airman 1st Class John George works in in-tank maintenance training in the fuel cell shop trainer.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol



# Community

## Today

### HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Today is the youth center’s annual Halloween carnival and haunted house from 6 to 9 p.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 26 at Liberty Square. Tickets at the door will be four for \$1. Tickets are needed to play the game booths, enter the haunted house and purchase food. For details, call the youth center at 747-3150.

### FRAMING WORKSHOP

Sign up today for the skills development center’s framing workshop to be held 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 26. Cost is \$20 plus supplies, please bring a picture to frame. After taking this class, you will be certified to use the center’s frame shop. Class size is limited to six.

### TEENSUPREME MEETING

Every Friday for ages 14 to 18 from 9 to 10 p.m. at the Liberty Square teen center. For details, call the youth center at 747-3150.

### FRIDAYS AT LIBERTY SQUARE

There will be no open skating at Liberty Square tonight. The teen center at Liberty Square is also not available tonight.

## Saturday

### DANCING AT THE CLUB

Come out to the club tonight from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. and dance to club mix music with “DJ.”

## Monday

### FALL TABLE RUNNER CLASS

Sign up by today for the skills development center’s fall table runner class to be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 30 and Nov. 6. Come and take this class to learn to quilt and appliqué a festive fall table runner. Class is two days, and the cost is \$15 plus materials.

### WIDOW’S BINGO

Come to the club tonight while your spouse is watching football – play bingo. Cards will go on sale at 6 p.m., and games will start at 7 p.m. – guaranteed a minimum of \$700 given nightly.

## Wednesday

### CANDY BINGO

Every Monday for ages 6 to 12 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the youth center.

### PRETEEN GEOGRAPHY BEE

This event will be held tonight at 6 p.m. at the youth center for ages 9-12.

### MALL OF AMERICA

Today is the last day to sign up for the outdoor recreation trip to the Mall of America. Departure time is 5 a.m. from outdoor recreation and will return same evening around midnight. Cost is 22.50 per adult.

### EVENING DINING AT THE CLUB

The “Frontier Grill” menu is offered every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the club. Wednesday nights are half price starters and Thursday nights kid’s menu is half price.

## Upcoming

### SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH

The club is having their Super Sunday Brunches on Nov. 3 and Nov. 17. Come and enjoy 2 meats, biscuits and gravy, eggs, fruit, waffles, omelets and more!

### START SMART PARENTS MEETING

There will be a parents meeting for START SMART basketball on Nov 5 at 5 p.m. at Liberty Square.

### BASE PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

It’s just around the corner. Get your creative juices flowing. This year’s base photography contest is scheduled for Nov 8. All entries must be submitted to the skills development center no later than Nov 6.

### MEMBERS FIRST CARD ME!

In October and November we are giving a total of \$1,800 in cash drawings! Show your club card and receive an “I got Carded” entry form for a chance to win! This member’s first program is for AMC club members only! For details stop by the club.

### HOLIDAY PARTIES

Need help planning your holiday party? Let the club help do this, call Anne at the club 747-3392. Members First – receive a 10 percent discount when you book your holiday party on a Monday through Thursday. Also, new members who sign up from September to December 2002 pay no dues until January 2003.

### INSTRUMENT INSTRUCTORS NEEDED

The youth center is looking for a piano and a guitar instructor; both are for instrumental and orchestra instruments. If interested call 747-3150.

# Base chapel

**CATHOLIC:**  
**Mass:** 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. Sunday.  
**No weekday mass until Nov. 21**  
**Pray the rosary** 11:30 a.m. Sunflower Chapel  
Monday through Friday  
**CCD:** 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Twining Elementary  
School  
**Reconciliation:** 4 p.m. Saturday, 8:30 a.m. Sunday,  
or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel  
**PROTESTANT:**  
**Traditional Protestant worship:** 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.  
**Liturgical worship:** 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Prairie  
Rose Chapel.  
**Contemporary worship:** 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie  
Rose Chapel  
**Singles:** 6 p.m. Friday, meet at Prairie Rose Chapel  
annex  
**Youth:** 4 p.m. Sunday, meet at youth center  
**Religious Education:** 9 a.m. Sunday, Eielson  
Elementary School.  
**Men of the Chapel:** noon Monday, Prairie Rose  
conference room  
**JEWISH:**  
For details call Sheila Farquharson at 594-3960 or  
Synagogue B’nai Israel at 775-5124.  
**RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:**  
For details call Dr. Levitov 780-6540  
**MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:**  
For details call 747-5673.

# Base theater

**Today, 7 p.m.**  
***Spy Kids II (PG)***  
This time around, Carmen (Alexa Vega) and Juni  
Cortez (Daryl Sabara) find themselves on a myste-  
rious island, where they meet an eccentric scientist  
(Steve Buscemi) and his odd genetic creations, all  
the while battling a pair of rival spy siblings, Gary  
(Matt O’Leary) and Gerti (Emily Osment) Giggles.  
When the kids find themselves in trouble, mom  
and dad (Carla Gugino, Antonio Banderas) spring  
into action.

**Saturday, 7 p.m.**  
***Trapped (R)***  
A Mississippi physician, Dr. Will Jennings  
(Stuart Townsend), and his wife (Charlize  
Theron) take matters into their own hands when  
their diabetic daughter is abducted by two experi-  
enced kidnappers.

**Nov. 1, 7 p.m.**  
***The Four Feathers (PG-13)***  
Based on the novel by A.E.W. Mason, the story  
takes place in 1898 Sudan. British officer Harry  
Faversham (Heath Ledger) resigns his post just  
before the battle of Omdurman. His fiancée (Kate  
Hudson) and three friends (one of whom is played  
by Wes Bentley) present him with four white feath-  
ers, symbolizing his cowardice. But Faversham is  
actually planning to go undercover in the hopes of  
redeeming himself.

**Nov. 2, 3 p.m.**  
***Swimfan (PG-13)***  
The new girl in town (Erika Christensen)  
becomes obsessed with a popular champion high-  
school swimmer (Jesse Bradford) with Olympic  
prospects. When he turns her down, she develops a  
Fatal Attraction-style crush on him.

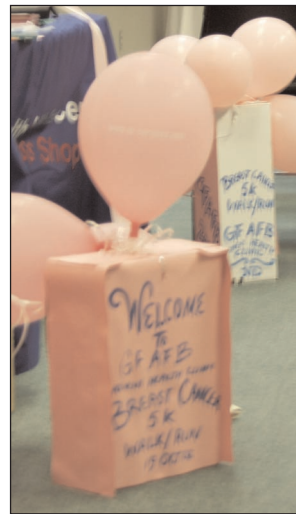
**Nov. 2, 7 p.m.**  
***The Good Girl (R)***

**Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults**  
**For details, call 747-3021/6123.**





Photos by Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol



## Breast cancer 5K

(Above and left) Signs mark the effort the women's health clinic and the health and wellness clinic put together Saturday for the Breast Cancer Awareness five-kilometer run/walk. (Right) Participants start off the event. The overall effort was in observance of October being National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



## VETERANS DAY CROSS COUNTRY RACE

The Grand Forks Park District, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1874 and the family support center sponsor the fourth annual Veterans Day Cross Country Race, Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., at Lincoln Park Golf Course in Grand Forks. Participants meet at the clubhouse.

The race will be an eight-kilometer run along the Greenway. Pre-register before Nov. 8 is \$10; race day registration is \$12. Medals will be awarded to all finishers.

It will be a European style cross-country race, therefore, the terrain may not be conducive to 'good' running shoes. Spikes are allowed. For details call Grand Forks Park District at 746-2750 or race director Earl Beal at 747-3242.

## GALAXY BASKETBALL

Fridays at Liberty Square for ages 13 to 18 from 10:30 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15 (Minimum of 16 required to hold.). For details, call Jeremy Swearingin at 747-7210.

## YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING

Saturdays at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 - 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 - 15 from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$2.50 an hour and 75 cents for shoe rental. Need 10 to hold. Participants must sign up at the youth center.

## FOOTBALL FRENZY

Join the Club for "Football Frenzy" today at noon; NFL Sunday Ticket – total of four games on at one time.

## MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Come to the Club tonight for more "Football Frenzy" for Monday Night Football Starter in the sports bar.

## TOURNAMENT TUESDAYS

Every Tuesday the Youth Center will hold Tournaments for ages 9-12 at 5:30 p.m. and ages 13-18 at 7 p.m. Today's tournament is "Chess & Checkers".

## VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

The youth center is holding a "3 on 3"

## Shorts

Volleyball Tournament for ages 9 to 12 at 3:30 p.m. and ages 13 to 18 at 9 p.m. Choose your own teams of 3!

## OUTDOOR RECREATION TRIPS AND ND OPEN SEASON

► **Duck and goose hunts:** (dates are tentative) – Oct. 26 and Nov. 2. Outdoor recreation's duck hunts are open to four people while our goose hunts accommodate six to eight. The dates listed above are tentative and specifics on whether we hunt duck or goose will be announced. Call 747-3688 if you are interested in these hunts and for additional information.

### Hunting dates

Oct. 26 – Mink, muskrat, and weasel trapping season opens.

## DAKOTA LANES

Beginning in Oct. the bowling center will have the following bowling activities.

► **Unlimited bowling:** Sunday from 6 to 9 pm. \$5 per person unlimited

bowling, first come first serve.

► **75 cent bowling:** Mon-Wed-Fri from 11am to 1 pm, 75 cents a game.

► **Saturday Galaxy bowling:** Galaxy bowl and register to win the next Saturday Galaxy bowling free for you and one other person. Must be used the following Saturday night. Cannot be carried over to any other Saturday night.

► **Family bowling:** Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Limit three games per person. Cost is \$6 for two, \$9 for four.

## FIT AND FUN

Parents with children between 24 months and 10 years old can now bring their children to the new fit and fun center in the base fitness center. Located across from the climbing wall, this area allows parents to work out while directly supervising your child in the new play area. Before using the fit and fun Center, sign in at the fitness center's reception desk.

For details call the fitness center at 747-3384.